

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
2/8/10 – 2/21/10**

DISTRICT 1

COs Matthew Eberly, Brett Gustafson, and Sgt. Steven Burton conducted a sound meter enforcement patrol at Bergland with no sleds testing above the legal limit.

CO Matthew Eberly responded to a personal injury snowmobile accident where two Wisconsin snowmobile operators struck a deadfall tree across a closed Keweenaw County road. One operator was transported to a local hospital and spent the night with non life threatening injuries, the other suffered life threatening injuries and was flown to Duluth.

COs Dennis Gast and Jason Wicklund worked a fish contest in Chassell Bay. Not much fishing activity resulted in a pretty slow day. About 40 people were checked.

CO Matthew Eberly responded to a medical call at Mt. Ripley Ski Hill at Michigan Technological University. He assisted public safety and the ski patrol with a 12 year old who had suffered back injuries.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright contacted two subjects fishing on Lake LeVasseur in Marquette County. It was discovered that each were fishing with five lines and were ticketed for the violations.

COs Jason Niemi, Mark Leadman, Trey Luce and Sgt. Pete Wright worked a group snowmobile patrol in Marquette County in which they focused on sound level violations, revenue protection and operation issues. Action was taken on one sled which exceeded the legal limit of 88 decibels by testing out at 94 decibels. Other violations included one ticket for no trail permit, one ticket for an unregistered sled, 11 verbal warnings for other revenue violations, one verbal warning for recreational trespass, and one verbal warning for illegal operation.

CO Grant Emery contacted a group of hound hunters running a bobcat. A check of licenses found one resident hunting without a license and another non resident from Wisconsin illegally participating in the hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery conducted a snowmobile patrol in the Wakefield area. Tickets were written for licensing violations and for careless operation.

CO Dave Painter came across a snowmobile crash involving a 13 year old. The snowmobile left the trail and struck a large tree. The juvenile was uninjured in the crash but the sled was severely damaged. The crash investigation is ongoing.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kevin Postma observed a snowmobile without registration, but the snowmobiler sped down the trail before the CO could make a stop. In an attempt to head off the subject, CO Postma proceeded to a location where the snowmobile trail crossed the roadway. Again the snowmobiler was encountered at which time the subject sped off into the woods. CO Postma then used his patrol sled and tracked the subject. Six miles later the snowmobiler was surprised to find himself face to face with the CO. In addition to operating an unregistered snowmobile, the subject was driving on a suspended driver's license and did not have a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski assisted the Sault Ste. Marie City Police Department with a stolen motor vehicle. After receiving a tip, the CO utilized his patrol sled to locate the stolen vehicle a mile down a snowmobile trail. The subjects set the car on fire and then fled the scene. They remain at large and the investigation continues.

COs Derek Miller, John Wenzel, Jared Ferguson, Gerald Thayer and Sgt. Darryl Shann conducted a group snowmobile patrol on Manistique Lake for the winter carnival in Curtis. Several warnings and tickets for various fishing and snowmobile violations were issued. The COs were well received by the public and received several thanks for their efforts.

CO Mike Hammill was on routine snowmobile patrol when he was almost hit by a snowmobiler who ran a stop sign. The CO gave chase and stopped the subject five miles down the trail. The subject was charged with careless operation of a snowmobile. During the same patrol CO Hammill also stopped two other subjects operating in a careless manner and ticketed them.

Area 2 and 3 COs have encountered a large number of anglers using too many lines and leaving tip-ups unattended on the ice. The COs have issued tickets in six different incidents over the last two weeks. CO Derek Miller is conducting another investigation regarding a subject who left six fishing lines in the water over night and has done so in the past.

Area COs conducted several snowmobile patrols in high use areas. Out of several hundred contacts, only a few had violations that required enforcement. The worst violation of the week was a snowmobiler traveling 90 mph down the middle of a snow packed roadway that was open to vehicle traffic. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

COs Eric Bottorff, Rich Stowe and Matt Theunick conducted a sound meter enforcement patrol, addressing a problem area on the Gaylord to Cheboygan Trail. A total of 208 snowmobiles were checked with four verbal warnings for sound decibel violations. One ticket was issued for no trail permit

Area 2 COs conducted a group snowmobile patrol addressing careless operation of snowmobiles in the Cheboygan and Onaway areas. Few offenders were encountered with a high level of compliance found.

While patrolling the Pigeon River Country State Forest, CO Eric Bottorff encountered a subject traveling down the middle of the road on a snowmobile without a helmet. Upon stopping the subject it was learned that the sled had never been registered, it had no trail permit and the operator was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to a complaint at Francis Lake of a vehicle and snowmobile trailer blocking a roadway. Upon arriving at the location CO Bottorff observed several snowmobiles operating on the lake with one operator not wearing a helmet. The subjects were contacted and issued one ticket for operating a snowmobile without a helmet and two tickets for expired snowmobile registration. In addition a verbal warning was given for blocking the roadway and the vehicle was ordered to be moved.

While on patrol CO Matt Theunick observed that a gate to a cervidae facility was open. Further investigation revealed the facility has not been cleared and is still operational. A representative of the facility owner was contacted and advised of the infraction and ordered to close the gates. Court action will be sought if the situation occurs again. CO Matt Theunick will continue to monitor the facility

CO Matt Theunick checked numerous coyote hunters over the week and gave several verbal warnings for hunters parking their vehicles in the roadway.

CO Bill Webster observed two motorcycle operators driving carelessly on Fletcher's Floodwaters and upon contacting them noted they had four tip-ups out. The motorcycles were not licensed and no one could produce a fishing license. CO Webster wrote the owner of the tip-ups a ticket for fishing without a license and took enforcement action on the illegal activities of the motorcycle operators. CO Webster checked another angler fishing with five lines on the same patrol, ticketing him for his illegal activity.

CO Mark DePew had been attempting to contact an angler who left his shanty out on Otsego Lake without his name and address attached. CO DePew observed fresh tracks leading out to the shanty and proceeded to check for the occupant. CO DePew observed fishing lines in the water but no one around. The CO tracked the footprints leading from the shanty heading toward shore and located the parking spot of the angler. CO DePew waited for the angler to come back and contacted him after he had parked his vehicle. When the driver saw CO DePew he hid something inside his vehicle and admitted he was fishing in the unmarked shanty and had left his lines unattended. CO DePew located a bundle of heroin underneath the driver's seat and arrested and lodged the subject in the county jail. A total of five bundles were seized with a street value of about \$2000. Tickets were also issued for the illegal fishing activities.

CO Nick Torsky followed up on a complaint about the possible illegal taking of elk. A fresh elk skull was located at a residence and upon talking with the homeowner it was

discovered their dog dragged the elk antlers and head to their residence. CO Torsky followed tracks in the woods for a mile and located the residence from which the dog stole the elk antlers. After interviewing the homeowner, CO Torsky related that the owner had shot the elk in Colorado and no enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster, while working Fletchers Floodwaters, checked two anglers fishing. Upon walking up to meet them, CO Webster observed the tails of a northern pike and largemouth bass sticking out of the snow. CO Webster contacted the anglers and one subject could not produce his license. The anglers stated they'd caught pike, bass, and panfish. CO Webster asked why they had kept the bass and they replied because it is catch and release season on bass. CO Webster advised the bass were not immediately released back into the lake and were dead. Enforcement action was taken and the anglers were ticketed for possession of largemouth bass during the closed season.

CO Bill Webster was checking anglers on Beaver Lake when a snowmobile driving at an unsafe speed passed him less than 40 feet away. CO Webster followed the individual on his ORV and caught up to her and two friends. CO Webster observed more careless operation of machines and contacted the three operators. Tickets were issued for operating a snowmobile within 100 foot of an angler, operating a snowmobile without a trail permit, and for operating an ATV without an ORV license.

CO Joe Molnar responded to a complaint of predator hunting from a snowmobile on a snowmobile grade and found the hunter had an uncased firearm and no helmet. CO Molnar investigated and found two other hunters in the party who had used hunting licenses on their snowmobiles placing them near the headlight in an attempt to pretend they were trail permit licenses. CO Molnar ticketed one individual for no snowmobile trail permit and for an expired registration. Another hunter received a ticket for no snowmobile trail permit.

CO Joe Molnar observed a jeep operating carelessly on Beaver Lake and upon checking found a 12 year old operating the vehicle on the lake with three adults inside partying. All adults were intoxicated and had open intoxicants in the vehicle. CO Molnar ticketed the father of the son for allowing a minor to operate a motor vehicle and a ticket for open intoxicants was also issued.

CO Mark DePew reports that a hunter pled guilty to taking a deer out of season, along with open alcohol in a motor vehicle and has to pay \$1966 in fines and costs. The hunter also lost his hunting privileges until 2014, his hunting rifle was condemned, he must perform 40 hours of work camp or five days in jail and is on probation for six months.

COs Chuck McPherson, Chris Bowen, Mark DePew and Sgt. Chris Morris participated in Operation Lifesaver designed to save lives of persons operating illegally on railroad tracks, right-of-ways and crossing the tracks at places not designated as true railroad crossings. Snowmobiles and ATVs can create hard packed snow that can and have derailed trains off their tracks. Troopers from the Michigan State Police (MSP) Posts in

Houghton Lake and Gaylord and deputies from Crawford and Otsego Counties also assisted with the patrol. Almost 30 tickets were written with the majority being for illegal operation on the railroad tracks. One person was also wanted on a warrant and bond was taken, while another operator was operating on a suspended license and was taken to the county jail. Over 75 warnings were also given; most for illegal operation on the railroad tracks.

Area 1 COs conducted group sound meter enforcement patrols in both Emmet and Antrim Counties. Numerous machines were tested and several were over the allowed 88 decibel limit. It was noted that only the machines with exhaust enhancements were over the limit.

CO Andrea Albert was patrolling the Jordan River Valley on snowmobile when she observed two machines operating in a closed area. The riders appeared to notice her bright orange safety vest and fled the area. CO Albert was able to follow their tracks for several miles and caught them on private property. Several tickets were written.

CO Andrea Albert was on her way to a group snowmobile patrol when a snowmobiler ran the stop sign at the road crossing she was travelling through. CO Albert's patrol vehicle was nearly struck broadside. The snowmobile operator was issued a ticket for careless operation.

COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau conducted a snowmobile patrol in the Pellston area. They observed a large group of machines traveling on the trail. One of the riders ran through the intersection without slowing down. When the group was stopped and notified of the reason, they began to protest the ticket. The offending rider spoke up and told his friends "they are right."

CO Steve Speigl assisted local deputies with locating two subjects and accompanied them to a residence in Antrim County. The subjects spotted them and fled on a snowmobile. Pursuit was given and eventually ended with the subjects crashing the stolen snowmobile into a deputy's patrol car. The arrest was made with multiple counts.

CO Duane Budreau responded to a complaint of houndsmen chasing coyotes with snowmobiles. He followed the snowmobile tracks through posted private property and located the subjects. They confessed to chasing a coyote with their snowmobiles until it could no longer run and then dropping their dogs off to kill it.

COs Carl Vanderwall and CO Duane Budreau responded to a deer feeding complaint near Petoskey. The complainant was upset about the number of deer in the road and yard near the subject's home. When the COs arrived they found shelled corn scattered in the yard along with a mineral block. The homeowner claimed the corn was for the ducks who needed it to survive the winter and the mineral block was "just always there." The COs explained that the ducks would fly south if the corn was removed and it was illegal to put out any feed that attracts deer. The homeowner was ticketed for the feeding violation.

CO Andrea Albert contacted a hunter who was riding a snowmobile in a closed area, was not wearing a helmet and had a loaded uncased gun on his machine. He was ticketed for the violations.

DISTRICT 4

CO Jair Kollasch stopped a subject on his snowmobile for running a stop sign and determined that the subject was possibly under the influence of drugs. During the investigation the subject told CO Kollasch that he did not recall smoking any meth in the last 24 hours. The subject was arrested, submitted to a blood draw and was lodged.

While working a joint snowmobile patrol in northern Manistee County COs Steve Converse and Carla Soper contacted a group of snowmobilers who failed to stop at an intersection and were driving recklessly. Upon contacting the individuals, it was discovered that one subject had suspended driving privileges, one possessed marijuana and another had failed to transfer the registration for his new snowmobile.

CO Carla Soper, Manistee County, was asked to respond to a traffic stop where a local deputy witnessed a subject shooting a long gun from a vehicle. CO Soper found that a 16 year old had taken a squirrel from the vehicle with a .22. The juvenile was not licensed to drive, had no hunting license and was wanted as a runaway. The adult passenger was extremely intoxicated and on probation for prior alcohol offenses. The adult was arrested and the youth was returned to his parent.

COs Angela Greenway, Brian Brosky and Sgt Kevin Hackworth conducted a snowmobile patrol near Irons in Lake County and contacted numerous snowmobile enthusiasts. Although the majority of snowmobilers were operating legally, three persons were ticketed for blatantly failing to stop before crossing roadways. The COs also assisted one person who had crashed and injured his shoulder.

CO Steve Converse ticketed a subject for purchasing more deer kill tags than allowed. He had been searching for the subject since last season for the same violation.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Hodenpyl Dam in Wexford County when he observed a number of unattended tip-ups. After waiting for some time, CO Converse left the location and returned the next day. An inspection of the tip-ups revealed that the owners had at some time in the interim visited the location, cleared the ice holes and then left again. Once again, CO Converse waited for the owners to return. After an extended wait, the owners returned and claimed the tip-ups. Tickets were issued for leaving lines unattended.

COs Brian Lebel and Mike Bomay received a complaint of a subject who has been shooting turkeys behind his house. The COs contacted the subject who denied the activity. A search of the yard revealed piles of feathers and blood, but the subject still denied shooting a turkey and led the COs to a freezer to show them all the butchered

chickens in it. A package of "chicken" in the freezer had a turkey feather still attached. The subject eventually confessed to shooting two young male turkeys during the closed season.

COs Mike Bomay, Jeff Ginn, Brian Lebel and Mike Wells conducted a snowmobile sound enforcement patrol on a northern Newaygo County trail. Many contacts were made and several machines tested above the 88 decibel limit. Several tickets and warnings were issued for various violations of registration, trail permits, and sound.

DISTRICT 5

COs Chuck McPherson and Chris Bowen worked a joint snowmobile enforcement patrol with District 3 conservation officers, sheriff's deputies and MSP troopers, with a focus on trespass on railroad right-of-ways along with safe operation. Numerous tickets and warnings were issued.

CO Bobbi Lively located several sites on federal land where a treble hook was baited with meat and hung a few feet off the ground. CO Lively and a law enforcement officer with the US Forest Service (USFS) conducted surveillance and located the subject who had placed the illegal sets. The subject was ticketed for trapping violations and federal land violations. The gear was confiscated.

COs Brian Engelhard and Warren MacNeill served a search warrant on an unlicensed taxidermist. The subject had been operating without state and federal licenses and had specimens in his possession. The subject stated he knew he needed a license and wondered when they were going to catch him.

CO Warren MacNeill concluded a lengthy investigation regarding a bobcat that was brought in to be sealed well after the close of season. After several interviews, CO MacNeill was finally able to identify a subject and learned the cat was harvested prior to season and registered by a second individual.

DISTRICT 6

CO Robert Hobkirk contacted two anglers as they were coming off of Saginaw Bay. The two subjects were not wearing helmets and both were carrying small children on the ORVs with them. One individual was issued a ticket for no helmet and the other was ticketed for operating his ORV while his license was suspended. Warnings were given for operating an ORV with passengers and no ORV licenses.

A snowmobile patrol was conducted on the trail system in Sanilac and Huron Counties by COs Seth Rhodea, Scott Brown, Joshua Wright and Sgt. Tony Soave. Activity was down due to the conditions of the trails but the majority of the snowmobiles that were contacted were in violation. Several tickets were issued by COs for registration and trail permit violations and verbal warnings were also given.

CO Holly Pennoni investigated a complaint she received regarding a bobcat that was illegally taken. The hunter had taken the bobcat in to be sealed and registered, but had purchased his hunting license late in the afternoon on the same day he alleged he shot the cat. After an interview with the hunter, it was revealed the hunter shot the bobcat first then purchased his license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Holly Pennoni and Daniel Lee conducted a patrol on Saginaw Bay checking several hundred anglers. Multiple violations were encountered involving unlicensed ORVs and snowmobiles. Violations were also found and tickets written for anglers using too many lines. More people are using tip-ups outside their shanties and fishing with three lines inside. Several verbal warnings were issued for no names on tip-ups.

CO Seth Rhodea was sitting at an intersection on a snowmobile trail when he observed a snowmobiler approach the intersection at a high rate of speed and then run the stop sign at the intersection. CO Rhodea stopped the operator who claimed he was new to riding snowmobiles and was not familiar with the trails. As the CO was discussing the incident with the operator, a second snowmobiler approached his location, operating his sled without a trail permit. The CO directed the operator to stop his sled which he did and stated that he had not yet purchased a trail permit. The first operator was ticketed for careless operation and the second operator for no trail permit.

During the fall of 2009 CO Phil Hudson arrested two subjects for taking three does and two bucks illegally. The subjects paid \$7000 in fines and restitution.

CO Ken Lowell was working on illegal snowmobile activity in the Flat River State Game Area (SGA) when he contacted two snowmobilers. Both operators had suspended drivers licenses and neither had a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken for riding snowmobiles in a State Game Area.

While patrolling in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell watched an ORV turn onto the paved road that he was traveling on and start to head toward him at a high rate of speed. The CO was able to get the ORV stopped and contacted the operator. Along with careless operation, the operator also had no helmet or ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Holly Pennoni and Dan Lee spent a day on the Saginaw Bay checking walleye anglers who were having moderate success and few were found with violations. Snowmobilers and ORV operators, on the other hand, were not so compliant. Many violations for permits, registrations and helmets were addressed by the COs.

DISTRICT 7

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar patrolled a pike tournament held at Hutchins Lake in Allegan County. The COs contacted over 100 anglers and issued tickets for too many lines. Most anglers reported slow fishing.

COs Chuck Towns, Mike Mshar, Steve Mooney and Sgt. John Jurcich conducted snowmobile patrols along the Allegan County trail systems and in the Allegan SGA. Five tickets were issued for trail permit, registration and trespass violations.

CO Mike Mshar assisted MSP with the investigation of a subject shooting a road injured deer. When officers arrived at the residence to investigate, they found the subject had shot the deer in a nearby wood lot and had already taken possession of the animal. During the investigation at his residence, a small packet of drugs was observed in the subject's wallet as he looked for his licenses and identification. When asked about the packet, a struggle followed in which the subject swallowed a packet containing methamphetamine and required transport to a local hospital for treatment during the arrest. The subject is facing charges for possession of a deer during closed season, possession of methamphetamine and resisting and obstructing officers.

CO Mike Mshar observed a coyote hunter returning to his vehicle in full camouflage, wearing no hunter orange. CO Mshar stopped the vehicle and found a loaded firearm in the truck. The subject advised he was just on his way home so it was okay to leave the gun loaded.

CO Mike Mshar was conducting follow up investigations from the firearm deer season which led to charging a subject for failing to validate deer tags. In addition, while talking to another subject relating to deer hunting, guilt overtook this individual who placed a phone call to the CO afterward, admitting to taking an antlerless deer without a license in 2009.

CO Patrick McManus was working on a complaint of taking overlimits of panfish from a small Allegan County lake. During a patrol, he observed a subject who displayed his fish during a check but appeared to have an extra plastic bag concealed at the bottom of a bucket. CO McManus located a 15 fish overlimit in the bag and ticketed the subject for taking an overlimit of panfish.

CO Patrick McManus was on patrol when he observed a large amount of black smoke coming from a fire. Locating the source, he found a subject burning carpet padding, plastic, a punching bag and other household goods. CO McManus ticketed the subject for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Patrick McManus assisted the MSP K-9 Unit in responding to a breaking and entering in progress at a casino under construction in Wayland. CO McManus assisted in a search which resulted in the arrest of two subjects and the recovery of items taken.

CO Jeff Rabbers organized a patrol for the Winterfest event, held on Gun Lake in Barry County. COs Jeff Rabbers, Patrick McManus, Chuck Towns, Mike Mshar, Chris Holmes and Sgt. John Jurcich worked in conjunction with the Barry County Sheriff's Department and K-9 units from MSP at Wayland. The K-9 companions led to one drug arrest during the patrol. COs contacted nearly 200 outdoor enthusiasts during the day, and ticketed 10 for violations of fishing without licenses, no snowmobile registrations or

trail permits as well as ORV violations. One subject was ticketed for careless operation after he was observed driving a snowmobile at high speed on one ski near a crowd. Another was ticketed for fishing without a license after he stated he should probably have one since he is the director of a fishing event on another lake.

CO Jeff Rabbers ticketed three persons for fishing with 12 lines in Ionia County. He also ticketed three for no fishing licenses.

CO Gary Raak observed a subject fishing with one fishing rod and four tip-ups on a Barry County lake. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

CO Chris Holmes observed a four wheel drive ATV on Long Lake being operated at high speed and in a reckless manner. The driver also had no helmet, no ORV license and when contact was made, it was determined he was also suspended from operating vehicles by the Secretary of State.

CO Chris Holmes assisted when police became involved in a vehicle chase attempting to arrest four subjects wanted in an attempted shooting. The subject's vehicle was stopped by police and CO Holmes assisted in taking the subjects into custody. Shortly after, the gun used in the attempted shooting was located after it had been thrown from the subject's vehicle.

CO Ken Cerny conducted a deer processor inspection in St. Joseph County. CO Cerny discovered numerous processor violations. While checking a freezer at the facility, several protected birds were discovered. Among some of the birds were owls, red tail hawks, a cardinal and other song birds. The processor admitted to collecting the birds over the years in hopes of doing some taxidermy work. The subject does not have a taxidermy license and has no permits to possess the specimens.

CO Steve Mooney obtained a warrant from this past deer season for a subject who impersonated a conservation officer. The subject had printed off Department logos and created a letterhead off the internet, then wrote a letter and signed it with the Plainwell District lieutenant's signature; information he also attained via the internet. The subject then posted it on a hunter's blind accusing him of violations and stating action would be taken by the CO if the hunter did not move immediately. The subject is facing at least a year in jail for his actions.

CO Ken Cerny and Sgt. Bob Torres responded to a complaint of rocks being stolen from the Three Rivers SGA. The COs followed tractor tracks back to a residence a short distance away. COs interviewed the resident and the subject admitted to taking the rocks from state land without a permit. He wanted the rocks to help landscape a riverbank.

COs Greg Patten and Ivan Perez patrolled the Chain of Lakes in Kent County to address complaints of unsafe ORV and snowmobile operation at a fishing derby during

the DNRE Free Fishing Weekend. Several tickets were issued, including roadway operation, failure to wear helmets and registration violations.

CO Ivan Perez and Sgt. Dave Shaw located a large amount of garbage that was dumped along a snowmobile trail in the Muskegon SGA. The pile contained approximately 20 bags of household garbage. A suspect residence was determined from evidence contained in the garbage. By interviewing the homeowner, it was determined that the homeowner's son was paid to take the load to the local landfill. Contact was made with the son who admitted to the violation. The responsible party was ticketed and ordered to clean up the site and submit a landfill receipt to the court.

CO Steve Orange was called to investigate a marine accident that occurred on the Grand River in Grand Rapids. Initial findings indicate that a boat containing two steelhead anglers was motoring down river when they hit a low lying cable that was stretched across the river by some workers conducting a survey. The boat occupants suffered minor injuries. The investigation continues into the cause and extent of the accident.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jason J. Smith contacted a vehicle operator driving erratically in the game area. The operator was driving on a suspended license, had improper plates on the vehicle, had open intoxicants in the vehicle and had only one working headlight. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer responded to a complaint at a local lake where there were several unattended tip-ups fishing through the ice. CO Brewer's investigation showed that no one was tending the lines and that there were at least two fish on the tip-ups. CO Brewer located the subjects who set the tip-ups at 6:30 a.m. before they went to work and came back to check them when they got out of work at 3:00 p.m. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice fishing activity, COs Brad Brewer and Damon Owens located a subject who stated he caught only two fish. The investigation showed the subject had hidden an overlimit of panfish in his fishing gear. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a complaint where the information stated a subject was feeding deer in his backyard. CO Bigger observed several deer feeding on what appeared to be corn. Upon contact, the subject stated he was feeding turkeys with birdseed. CO Bigger asked the subject why there was no evidence of turkeys or birds in the area. The subject confessed to the illegal feeding and stated that he thought it was his right to watch the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger located a group of seven people fishing on an impoundment. CO Bigger's investigation found that of the seven people, six were fishing and two did not have fishing licenses. The group was surprised to see CO Bigger checking their

licenses as they stated they had never been checked in that location before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols checked two subjects ice fishing on a small inland lake with nine lines. The tip-ups did not have names and addresses on them nor did the shanty they were fishing from. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a complaint about two dead deer that were hanging in a subject's yard. The investigation showed the deer had been killed last deer season and never been properly tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince received a complaint about a subject fishing with over 15 tip-ups at one time. CO Prince's investigation revealed that the subject had unmarked tip-ups all over the lake and the subject traveled in his truck to check all of them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a complaint of a subject hunting coyote on land that they did not have permission to hunt. CO Bigger's investigation showed the subject did trespass onto private property and kill a coyote illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy assisted the Island Lake Recreation Area staff in dealing with snowmobiles operating illegally in the recreation area. The COs encountered numerous violations including operating unregistered snowmobiles, operating snowmobiles without trail permits, snowmobile operators not wearing helmets, operating in closed areas and operating a snowmobile with a suspended operator's license. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Pete Purdy responded to a complaint about snowmobiles and ORVs being operated illegally in the game area. The violations CO Purdy encountered included operate motor vehicles in prohibited areas, transport passengers on vehicles not designed for passengers, operate unlicensed ORVs, operate ORVs and snowmobiles without wearing helmets, unattended tip-ups and use tip-ups without name and address attached. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Shane Webster contacted a snowmobiler who was not wearing a helmet. Further investigation showed that the snowmobile had not been registered in seven years. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

Sgt. Tom Wanless was patrolling a country road in southern Genesee County when he observed a subject on a snowmobile pull out onto the road in front of him and head in the opposite direction. The CO finally got the operator to stop one mile down the road. The subject had a warrant and a suspended driver's license. The sled was unregistered and had no trail permit. Enforcement action was taken, including securing \$500 in bond for the warrant.

CO Mark Papineau is investigating a case where a subject attempted to drive a snowmobile over open water and did not make it. The subject got himself out of the water in the early morning hours of the incident and walked over a mile to shore and was picked up by family members. The subject failed to report the accident; however, an anonymous citizen reported it. A water recovery team was able to recover the machine. It was determined the full tank of gas leaked out into the lake. The incident is still under investigation.

While patrolling Holly Recreation, CO Mark Papineau observed six snowmobiles operating on a lake. When they saw the CO, four of the subjects took off. CO Papineau tracked the subjects down and stopped them before they left the park. Numerous violations were found with all four subjects and snowmobiles. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice anglers coming off the ice, CO Ken Kovach contacted two subjects who claimed to have caught their limit. The CO determined that one of the subjects was over his limit and did not have a valid fishing license. When CO Kovach ran the subject's name through the retail sales system, he found that the subject was revoked indefinitely from purchasing any hunting or fishing licenses. The CO determined that the subject also purchased an antlerless deer license when revoked. During the interview, CO Kovach found that the subject had taken an antlerless deer during the season and did not validate the tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach assisted the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department with a snowmobile accident. The subject was intoxicated, not wearing a helmet and the snowmobile did not have a trail permit. The subject struck a large oak tree and was transported to Hurley Medical.

CO Mark Ennett conducted a taxidermy inspection and found the business owner had not renewed his license and there were four untagged specimens on the property. A ticket was issued to the taxidermist and follow up investigations are underway on the tagging violations.

CO Dan Walzak observed a subject who was operating an ORV on a busy roadway and followed him until he turned onto a side road. The subject was so busy doing power spins that he did not notice the patrol vehicle until it was 20 feet away from him. CO Walzak gave him a verbal warning for operating on the roadway and issued a ticket for fail to wear a helmet and eye protection.

CO Ben Shively issued tickets to two snowmobilers for operating unregistered machines and gave them verbal warnings for no trail permits. During the same patrol on Walled Lake, CO Shively issued a ticket for fishing with too many lines to a subject who had two tip-ups out and had two lines in his shanty,

CO Kris Kiel issued three tickets for ORV violations, one for operate without wearing a helmet and two for no ORV license.

CO Al Schwiderson received a complaint of a trespass in progress on Lake Lapeer. While investigating the complaint, the CO determined there was no trespass violation; however, two of the subjects who were fishing did not have valid fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach conducted two interviews on subjects who were involved in the taking of a deer in Sanilac County last fall while their hunting privileges were revoked. The subjects took the deer back to Lapeer County to process. While interviewing the subjects, CO Kovach found that the subject who shot the deer had a lifetime revocation. The CO will be seeking warrants for the violations.